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SOURCE Spravochnik Nauchnogo Rabotnika, Academy Medical Science USSR.

INFORMATION ON SOVIET  
SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL SOCIETIES

The following data on Soviet scientific medical societies is taken from  
a decree issued by the Ministry of Public Health USSR on 13 July 1947.

Scientific medical societies of the USSR carry out the important func-  
tions of unification of scientific workers of Soviet medicine, development  
of large scale scientific-theoretical and practical medical problems, and  
organization of public health.

Scientific medical societies did especially important work during World  
War II, which contributed toward improving the treatment received by wounded  
and sick soldiers and officers of the Red Army in evacuation hospitals of the  
People's Commissariat of Public Health USSR, and in waging a successful strug-  
gle against infectious diseases.

At present, relative to the transition to peacetime conditions, scientifi-  
c medical societies of the Soviet Union are confronted with new and responsi-  
ble tasks such as eliminating the aftereffects of the war, and fulfilling the  
Five-Year Plan of Reconstruction and Development of the National Economy of  
the USSR in the field of public health.

The present charter for scientific medical societies is inadequate for  
this work. The work of these scientific medical societies is characterized  
by lack of adequate planning and organization in the work of their adminis-  
trations; lack of sufficient contact with republic, and oblast scientific  
medical societies; digressions from the charter on questions of membership,  
and inadequate participation by specialists in the work of the societies.  
Many scientific medical societies failed to center their attention on the  
evaluation of basic theoretical problems which had an actual bearing on the  
theory and practice of public health and medical science during the postwar  
period. The work of scientific medical societies was completely inadequate  
in regard to popularization of scientific knowledge among the people of the  
Soviet Union.

The tremendous growth of scientific medical forces and the diversity of  
specialties suggests the need for organizing new scientific medical societies.

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To insure more productive work by scientific medical societies and a rapid solution of many urgent scientific-theoretical and scientific-practical problems of Soviet medicine and public health, the Minister of Public Health USSR decreed that:

1. The following organizational measures for scientific medical societies be put into effect:
  - a. Establish a special All-Union society with republic scientific medical societies coming under its jurisdiction.
  - b. Establish republic scientific medical societies with oblast and city scientific medical societies coming under their jurisdiction.
  - c. Establish a single oblast, city, or rayon medical society, embracing physicians of all specialties (in cases where special scientific medical societies exist in cities, such societies are subject to the laws of the city scientific medical society, and at the same time, are subordinate to the administration of the oblast or republic society).
2. All-Russian scientific medical societies and associations still in existence be incorporated into corresponding All-Union scientific societies and associations according to specialties. Their administrations are to be combined with those of All-Union societies.
3. The direction of special All-Union societies be placed under UMS (Scientific Medical Council), Ministry of Public Health USSR; republic medical societies under UMSs, Union-Republic Ministries of Public Health; and oblast and city scientific medical societies under oblast and city branches of public health organizations.
4. The UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR, and UMSs, Union-Republic Ministries of Public Health, assume control, through the administrations of All-Union and republic societies, of all republic, oblast and city scientific medical societies by 1 October 1946, and in the future maintain direct contact with and direction of their work.
5. The UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR, and UMSs, Union-Republic Ministries of Public Health, be held responsible for providing, through the administrations of scientific medical societies, planned work, and periodic examination and approval of annual plans of their activity.
6. The presidiums of the UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR, and the UMSs, Union-Republic Ministries of Public Health, be held responsible for conducting, through the administrations of scientific medical societies, re-registration of all society members by 1 October 1946, and issuing new and uniform membership cards to all members of the scientific medical societies.
7. The administrations of republic, oblast, and city scientific medical societies be held responsible for submitting annual reports to the general assembly of society members and insuring annual re-election of society administrations.
8. The UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR, be held responsible for the preparation of a proposed schedule for convening the assemblies of societies and the agenda for these assemblies jointly with the administrations of All-Union societies. The aforementioned schedule and agenda are requested for the period 1947 - 1948, and must be submitted to the Minister of Public Health USSR for approval by 1 December 1946.
9. A Committee on the Direction of the Activity of Scientific Medical Societies be formed within the UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR.

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10. The above-mentioned committee be made responsible for the general direction of the work of scientific medical societies, dividing them among committee members according to groups; for the approval of reports on their activity and annual plans for their work, the budget, and unification of the activity of various societies in a joint discussion of basic theoretical and clinical medical problems (according to specialties). The committee is further directed to prepare, by 1 September 1946, the subject matter for joint discussion by the various special societies, and outlines of reports of societies to the presidium, UMS, Ministry of Public Health USSR.

11. The model charter for scientific medical societies and a sample of a membership card for all societies appended to the decree, be approved.

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